

Exit Dulles, Lip Buttoned

IF ALLEN W. DULLES has a facts-loaded, irresistably logical defense of his stewardship of the Central Intelligence Agency, he will have to suffer in silence. The code of the spy profession has a big place for the buttoned lip, and none at all for the maudlin babbling of U-2 pilot Francis Powers.

If we had to guess — and it can only be a guess in view of CIA secrecy — we'd say Mr. Dulles has been far from a flop as the nation's top spy the past few years. The two greatest known disasters con-

nected with the Dulles regime in the CIA are the U-2 incident, which flattened the May, 1960, summit meeting before it got started, and the Cuban invasion fiasco.

These lamentable events were national embarrassments rather than irretrievable setbacks. No war resulted from the failure of President Eisenhower and Khrushchev to get together. The Soviet premier was willing to meet recently with President Kennedy.

The Cuban invasion was primarily a military operation, and it failed because the U.S. was unwilling at the time to underwrite its success with its own military force. We could still take Castro easily by force anytime it seemed like the wise course.

It may be that Mr. Dulles' advice had something to do with the grounding of U.S. air cover for the invaders. Traditionally, however, U.S. military chiefs have regarded any degree of accuracy in intelligence reports as a possible but uncertain plus in strategy, at the same time allowing for the eventuality that intelligence is dead wrong.

All this is not to say that Mr. Dulles' retirement is not timely and desirable. An aura of non-success has collected around him. The people and the President appear to want a fresh approach to the stern decisions ahead, and an end to second-guessing. Mr. Dulles, in this climate, is expendable.